



Funding music projects that change young lives

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Discovering music

Child's Play, Goa, India

The Child's Play (India) Foundation works to bring classical music to underprivileged children in India. Its first project was a partnership with Hamara School, an educational institution for underprivileged children in Goa. Two doctors from High Wycombe, Luis and Chryselle Dias, left their jobs to lead the music project at the school. Musequality supported them with money for start-up costs, teaching and instruments.



The Hamara School serves communities in and around Panjim where living conditions are poor. Many children have no place to live, suffer from malnutrition and have no means to get education or medical help. The school was founded by Mangala Wagle of the Goa branch of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, and a few volunteers. Children are provided with breakfast, lunch and an evening snack, and are taught hygiene and basic primary level education.



In January 2011, Child's Play ran its first session at the school, and Luis said there was huge excitement as 15 children had their first violin lessons. In July, a recorder programme was launched with classes twice a week, and the children took very enthusiastically to the new instrument. By December, the children were ready to give a concert. The violinists played Twinkle variations, while the recorder kids played tunes such as Mary Had a Little Lamb. Luis told us that two of the violin children, Irfan and Reshma, had won admission into Goa's music school, Kala Academy, against tough competition from numerous middle-class kids.

Further Child's Play projects in other parts of India are now under way.

Concert is Child's Play for British soprano

The British soprano Patricia Rozario, who was born in Mumbai, topped the bill at a benefit concert in 2011 in aid of the Child's Play (India) Foundation in Goa. Two of her students, Joanne D'Mello and Susanna Hurrell, also performed to a full house.

2014 update

The children of Child's Play India were invited to perform at a concert of young local talent at the Goa State Museum in January 2014. The event was organised by **Pro Musica**, a non-profit music society formed to promote Western classical music in Goa. The recorder and flute students of Hamara School played alongside Child's Play violin students. Also on the stage was the Camerata Child's Play India ensemble, conducted by visiting conductor **Santiago Lusardi Girelli**. The ensemble is part of an ongoing collaboration with the Social Music Project of the University of Seville, Spain.

I lived on the streets of Kampala. When I came here (M-Lisada) my life started to be good

Saffik 7



The children joined World Busk 2011 and played to the public at the Literati Bookshop in Calangute, Goa

Donating instruments
Educational benefits of music

Design: Jane Davies